

A
LETTER
 FROM
HOLLAND.

SIR,

HAVING opportunity, I thought good to give you an account of our present Condition, which I suppose you are not altogether unacquainted with : We have been much encouraged, when we heard of the disagreement which was between the King and the Parliament ; but that is quite over, for we have heard to the contrary long since, to our sorrow ; but yet we are in hopes of Peace, for there is a place appointed for a Treaty, and that is *Cologne* : But however here is great Preparations for Sea and Land, for all hands are set at work for preparing the Fleet, which it is thought will be the best that ever we had. Our *Amsterdam* Fleet is already fit, and will go out within few days ; it consists of Thirty Ships, and Eight Fire-Ships ; but our greatest want will be Men, for it is impossible we should be provided both for Sea and Land ; for we hear, that the Forces of the King of *France* increase daily : But they intend to man the Ships with Land-men. There is Drums beating for the Officers and others to repair to their Ships speedily, upon forfeiture of a Months pay, which is *Fifteen Gilders*. There is Order given out, that there shall no Ships go out upon any occasions whatsoever, upon Forfeiture of Ships and Goods, neither Fishermen nor Privateers, as well as Merchant-men : And likewise, them that are already out, shall return upon the same Forfeiture. We hear of a Conspiracy that hath been against the Bishop and City of *Munster*, but I can say nothing to that : But we hear of a Party of men that was sent out of *Ordewater* near *Henclen* met with a Party of about a Hundred and Seventy *French*, and had a very sharp re-encounter, but here we hear, that we had the advantage, and that there were Seventy killed upon the place. We have another Tax come out of the payment of the Two Hundred Penny of all Life Rents, which hath made a great many of the People to go away with what they can get, for it is thought that we shall all be ruin'd : The greater sort do much encourage the others, telling them of Peace or Victory, (which makes the Proverb good, *in re male animo si bone utere juvat*) especially in Millitary Affairs. I do intend the first opportunity to make toward *England*, for I can find little hopes of Security here ; and when I come I will inform you of some other things, which will not be safe to write, the mean time with my due respects to your self, I remain,

Amsterdam,
 March 29, 1673.

Yours D. C.



29 March 1673